

Members of the Health Care Policy Committee,

I am opposed to the creation of a Health Care Exchange in Michigan

Refusing to create a Health Care Exchange is one of the most important actions states can take to help bring down the PPACA The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the federal health care law. Creating one only helps to embed it.

Recent developments have strengthened the case for refusing and/or adopting a prudent 'wait and see' policy.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Texas Gov. Rick Perry flat-out said "No!" to creating exchanges.

In August Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback ordered that \$32 million in PPACA exchange grants be returned, and Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin returned \$55 million in April. Florida's Gov. Rick Scott, has rejected \$2 million in federal grants.

According to Health Insurance Advisory Org, <http://healthinsuranceadvisory.org/> Sep 04 2011 South Carolina Governor Haley said the federal plan is not the right fit for the state and has declined to accept millions of federal funds to set up a medical insurance exchange and will also let key deadlines pass.

Tony Keck, head of South Carolina's Department of Health and Human Services, said, "Right now, it's smarter for the state to wait and see what rules actually come down and what solutions the federal government comes up with to the many unanswered questions and what other states come up with,"

And On Sept, 27, 2011 the AP reported that Arkansas Democrat Governor, Mike Beebe <<http://www.chron.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Mike+Beebe%22>> is unlikely to seek a \$3.8 million grant to research how to establish a health insurance exchange in Arkansas because several top Republican lawmakers have told him they oppose the plan." House Minority Leader" John Burris <<http://www.chron.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=news&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22John+Burris%22>> said in a letter also signed by other top Arkansas GOP stated, " We believe a cautious 'wait and see' approach is the right policy for several reasons,"  
<http://www.chron.com/news/article/Beebe-unlikely-to-seek-health-exchange-grant-2191604.php>

According to a Sept. 24, 2011 by The Mackinac Center for Public Policy article,..."health care policy expert Ed Haislmaier of the Heritage Foundation, said, 'these grants come with strings attached that increasingly commit the state to creating an Obama care

exchange."

The article goes on..."states may retain little if any meaningful "control" even if they do create their own exchanges, because these will have to comply with reams of ever-changing federal regulations, most of which have not even been written yet "

Health policy expert John Graham of the Pacific Research Institute wrote

<<http://thehealthcareblog.com/blog/2011/09/22/preparing-for-exchanges/>> on Sept 22, 2011

"State politicians are no longer fooled by the argument that if they do not collaborate to establish state-based exchanges, the federal government will enter their state and do it for them. Recent close reading of the law has debunked this notion. As written, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) has (at least) two clauses that will prevent this from happening ...The likelihood of exchanges being up and running by January 2014 is vanishingly close to zero. Indeed, they may not exist at all except in very few states — whether or not President Obama wins re-election."

<http://thehealthcareblog.com/blog/2011/09/22/preparing-for-exchanges/>

According to National Council of State Legislators, "In response to the federal health reform law, now known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA),...some members of at least 45 state legislatures have proposed legislation to limit, alter or oppose selected state or federal actions."

<http://www.ncsl.org/?tabid=18906>

As of Sep 04 2011, only sixteen states and Washington D.C. have accepted federal funds thus far, to establish healthcare exchanges according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://healthinsuranceadvisory.org/>

Furthermore, and in conclusion I am requesting that any Federal grant monies including but not limited to "Level 1" PPACA funding grant, or PPACA Information Technology Return received on behalf of the State of Michigan be returned and any future offers by the federal government of grants be refused

As a lifelong citizen of the great state of Michigan, I consider these monies akin to the Biblically "30 pieces of silver"

Thank you

Joan M.Fabiano

Organizer, Grassroots in Michigan

4965 Deer Run Ln

Holt, MI 48842